

Application No. 10/607,523
Final Amdt. dated 7/30/06
Reply to Office action of 5/31/06

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-11 remain in the application and are subject to examination. No claims have been amended, added or canceled.

In "Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102", item 2 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-11 have been rejected as being fully anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,119,305 to Loveall et al. (hereinafter Loveall) under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their previous form and, therefore, the claims have not been amended to overcome the reference.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful. Claim 1 calls for, *inter alia*, a device for protecting against electrostatic discharge and electromagnetic influences on electronic components, comprising:

a housing for housing the electronic components;

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an I/O shield covering a housing aperture;

an element extending through an aperture in said I/O shield; and

a sealing layer disposed between said element and said I/O shield for sealing said I/O shield aperture;

said sealing layer extending to a border of said housing aperture;

said sealing layer being formed of electrically conductive material.

Thus, claim 1 calls for an I/O shield. The Loveall reference does not disclose an I/O shield, as will be explained below.

The Examiner states in item 2 of the Office Action that Loveall discloses an I/O shield. The Examiner has interpreted the upper surface 30 of the grommet or the element 68, which is a fire-proof mesh or fabric, as an I/O shield.

As is described on page 2, lines 3-6 of the Specification of the instant application, an I/O shield consists of conductive metal plates. Clearly, neither the surface 30 nor the fabric 68 is a conductive metal plate and therefore elements 30 and 68 are not an I/O shield, as the term is commonly used in the art. An "I/O shield" is a commonly used term for a metal plate that fits into an I/O aperture of a housing for an electrical and especially a computer device.

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In order to show that Applicants' definition of the expression "I/O shield" is the one commonly used in the art, two documents are enclosed herewith, namely:

1. "NLX I/O Shield Design Suggestions, Version 1.0. Intel Corp" published 1997" and
2. "ATX Specification, Version 2.03, Intel Corp., published December 1998"

As is disclosed in the "NLX I/O Shield Design Suggestions" publication and in the "ATX Specification" document and in the penultimate paragraph on page 10 of the Amendment filed March 23, 2006, an I/O shield consists of conductive metal plates. An electrical terminal or an operating element of an electronic device or a computer is conducted outside through the I/O shield and is shielded against electrostatic discharge or electromagnetic fields. Considering all of the arguments given above, it is clear that Loveall does not disclose an I/O shield.

Using the terminology of claim 1 of the instant application, Loveall discloses:

a device including a housing for housing electronic components;

a grommet covering a housing aperture;

an element extending through the aperture and the

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grommet;

the grommet extending to a border of the housing aperture;

the grommet being disposed between the element and the housing aperture;

the grommet being formed of electrically conductive material;

the element being an electrical terminal or an operating element;

the housing having exterior wall surfaces, and electrical contact with the grommet being formed at the exterior wall surfaces;

the housing having interior wall surfaces, and electrical contact with the grommet being formed at the interior wall surfaces; and

the grommet having dimensions exceeding dimensions of the housing aperture.

It is accordingly seen that Loveall does not disclose any I/O shield at all.

In contrast to Loveall, the present invention as claimed includes an I/O shield.

It is an object of the invention of the instant application to provide an improved device for protection against electrostatic discharge and electromagnetic influence in electronic components. A critical part of every housing is the I/O shield of the housing or the I/O shield of a computer

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housing that is disposed at a housing aperture.

In order to meet the object of the invention of the instant application starting with a device as disclosed by Loveall, it would be necessary to add additional structure to the Loveall device to reach the device of the instant application. Firstly, an I/O shield, which is commonly known to be a conductive metal plate, has to be placed on the surface of the grommet disclosed by Loveall. Secondly, the inflexible parts of the grommet disclosed by Loveall must be removed.

Clearly, Loveall does not show an I/O shield as recited in claim 1 of the instant application, and considering how a person of ordinary skill in the art would need to reconstruct the device of Loveall, claim 1 of the instant application is clearly patentable over Loveall.

It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art. The dependent claims are believed to be patentable as well because they all are ultimately dependent on claim 1.

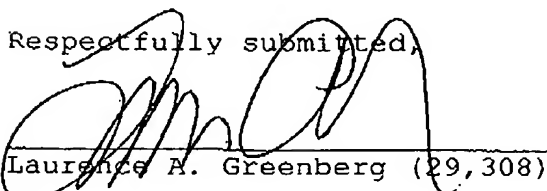
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In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 4, 5 and 9-11 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel would appreciate receiving a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out. In the alternative, the entry of the amendment is requested, as it is believed to place the application in better condition for appeal, without requiring extension of the field of search.

If an extension of time is required, petition for extension is herewith made. Any extension fee associated therewith should be charged to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP. Please charge other fees that might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to Deposit Account Number 12-1099 of Lerner Greenberg Stemer LLP.

Respectfully submitted,



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